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5 Chiefs attend unique college graduation

200 people, including the Chiefs of five Native Indian bands, were in attendance at a very special Capilano College graduation on March 14. The ceremony, held at Musqueam Hall in Vancouver, was the graduation of the Band Social Service Worker program - a unique 15 week program which was held in segments between February 1984 and March 1985.

23 students from 17 B.C. bands as far away as Bella Bella were involved in the BSSW program and participation in it required a good deal of dedication. The students, who were already working as social service workers

in their communities, had to leave their jobs for two weeks at a time to travel to North Vancouver and attend classes.

"It was a very demanding program physically, intellectually, and emotionally," said program Coordinator, Terry Adler. "The students needed a great deal of support to make this possible - the support of their Chiefs, Band Councils, families and friends."

The BSSW program focussed on the principles and practices of social work, and included instruction on such topics as theories of social development, critical thinking, self-awareness, the law, and strategies to deal

with issues facing native people today. Most of the courses were taught by instructor Bill Mussell, who proved to be ideally suited for the job.

A social worker with many years of experience in the field, Mussell has a degree in social work, is currently completing his PhD in Adult Education, and, in addition, is a former Chief of the Sto lo nation. "The students were very very pleased with the quality of his instruction," said Adler.

The opening remarks at the graduation were made by John L. George, hereditary chief of the Burrard Band. He and the four other chiefs stressed the vital role

that these workers play in their communities, as B.C.'s native people move towards self-determination. The presentation of diplomas was done by Dr. Bill Gibson, Associate Dean of Academic Studies, and the ceremonies ended with a presentation by dancers from the Burrard Band led by Leonard George.

Thirteen of the 23 students still require some courses to complete their certificate and Capilano College will be working with the Native Training Institute, Camosun College, and the Department of Indian Affairs to try and arrange for them to finish the program. Anyone in any native community who is interested in this program should contact Terry Adler at Capilano College, 986-1911, local 391.

BAND SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER PROGRAM GRADUATES:

Mary Louise Andrew - Seabird Island Band
Thomas William Bull - Seton Lake Band
Vera Edmonds - Mount Currie Band

Deanna D. George - Burrard Band
Cynthia Jo-Ann McNeil-Bobb - Seabird Island Band
Ben Pierre - Sechelt Band
James Laverne Point - Chehalis Band
Richard Marvin Point - Musqueam Band
Andrene Saunders - Bella Coola Band
Patricia A. Wilson - Okanagan Band

COURSES IN PROGRESS:

William Charlie Jr. - Chehalis Band
Donna Felix - Spallumcheen Band
Calvin Ernest Harry - Desolation Sound Tribal Council
Lily Joe - Spallumcheen Band
Dolores May John - Pavilion Band
Barbara Johnson - Oweekeno Band
Gladys Mason - Kitsoo Band
Jeannette Mountain - Fountain Band
Loretta Faith Pascal - Mount Currie Band
Arlene Jeanette Paul - Port Douglas Band
Anfinn Charles Siwallace - Bella Coola Band
Ethel Thomas - Spallumcheen Band
Margaret M. Thompson - Bella Bella Band